

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
Rules and Policies Concerning)	MM Docket No. 01-317
Multiple Ownership of Radio Broadcast)	
Stations in Local Markets)	
)	
Definition of Radio Markets)	MM Docket No. 00-244
)	

ORDER

Adopted: April 23, 2002

Released: April 23, 2002

By the Chief, Media Bureau:

1. On April 17, 2002, pursuant to section 1.46 of the Commission’s Rules,¹ the Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ (“UCC”) filed a “Motion for Extension of Reply Comment Deadline” in this proceeding. Previously, on January 23, 2002, and on March 8, 2002, we granted motions and extended our comment and reply comment deadlines.² The current deadline to file reply comments is April 24, 2002. UCC asks the Commission to further extend the reply comment filing deadline by 14 days to May 8, 2002. Among other things, UCC asserts that it needs additional time to complete its analyses of the large volume of comments filed in this proceeding. UCC states that, in addition to presenting legal arguments, parties have provided economic analyses and factual data regarding diversity and competition in local radio markets, and that review and analysis of such filings will demand significant time and resources.³ UCC states that UCC and its counsel, the Institute for Public Representation (“IPR”), do not have resources sufficient to meet the current deadline, especially in light of IPR’s recent filing of extensive comments in two other proceedings.⁴ UCC asserts that, because it is virtually the only party to this proceeding who represents the voice of local radio listeners, the requested extension is critical to public participation in the instant proceeding.⁵

2. We believe that the public interest would be best served by granting an extension of the reply comment filing deadline. The Commission seeks comment on a wide range of issues

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 1.46.

² *Order*, MM Docket Nos. 01-317 and 00-244, DA 02-156 (rel. Jan. 23, 2002) (extending the comment deadlines by 30 days in response to a request for a 45-day extension); *Order*, MM Docket Nos. 01-317 and 00-244, DA 02-582 (rel. Mar. 8, 2002) (granting a request for a 14-day extension of the comment and reply comment deadlines).

³ Motion at 1-2.

⁴ Motion at 2-3.

⁵ Motion at 2.

relating to multiple ownership of radio stations in local markets, including the statutory framework governing local radio ownership, diversity and competition in radio markets. We will, therefore, extend the reply comment deadline by an additional 14 days. We believe that 14 days provides sufficient additional time for UCC and others to review comments filed in this proceeding and to prepare comprehensive reply comments. This, in turn, will help the Commission in its decision-making and resolving the complex and significant public policy issues raised in this proceeding.

3. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that Motion for Extension of Reply Comment Deadline of the Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ IS GRANTED.

4. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the deadline for filing reply comments in this proceeding IS EXTENDED to May 8, 2002.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

W. Kenneth Ferree
Chief, Media Bureau